



Brownfields Initiatives in Region 1

Office of Outreach and Special Projects (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Currently, there are a number of Regionally funded Brownfields-related activities, such as targeted site assessments in urban areas, financial support of State voluntary cleanup programs, financial support of State regulation development, Inter-governmental Personnel Assignments (IPA) to cities, and outreach activities. Some of these activities are in the form of Regional or National pilots, while others are smaller scale actions such as prospective purchaser agreements. This fact sheet is one in a series of ten which outline Brownfields-related activities occurring in each of the ten Regions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The EPA Region 1 Brownfields Beneficial Reuse Initiative seeks to remove barriers to redevelopment caused by real or perceived contamination and to factor the beneficial reuse of a property into the decision making process at all hazardous waste remediation sites. Region 1 has taken the following actions toward fulfilling its mission:

- Assisted in the development of three prospective purchaser agreements to foster the redevelopment of contaminated parcels by removing the liability barriers associated with transferring the property to new owners. One agreement fostered the development of a recycling facility at the Industriplex Superfund Site in Massachusetts. The other two, which are still under development, may result in the development of a Regional Transportation Center at the Industriplex Site and a shopping mall at the Raymark Superfund Site in Stratford, Connecticut.
- Issued over 45 "comfort letters" to municipalities, property owners with contaminated aquifers, and residential property owners.
- Participated in approximately 16 outreach conferences and meetings with stakeholders to exchange information on brownfields-related issues and to discuss the tools available from EPA which can facilitate the redevelopment of contaminated parcels.
- Awarded a regionally funded two-year \$200,000 grant to the City of Boston to fund a Brownfields redevelopment pilot project that will inventory and prioritize contaminated properties in the Dudley Street Neighborhood, coordinate the City's work with the local community, and achieve redevelopment at five target sites.
- Assisted 17 city and State agencies in preparing their applications for National Brownfields grants. Three of the applicants assisted by Region 1 (the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts, the City of Worcester, Massachusetts, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management) received grants of \$200,000 each:
 - The City of Lawrence will revitalize the historic North Canal industrial corridor by inventorying the contaminated sites, identifying and providing solutions to redevelopment barriers, conducting

outreach activities, and exploring funding alternatives.

- The City of Worcester will redevelop three urban industrial sites through a creative tax incentive involving several surrounding communities.
- The State of Rhode Island will redevelop the watersheds of the Woonasquatucket and Blackstone Rivers using a unique ecosystem-based approach to redevelopment.
- Developed the Ground Water Use and Value Guidance, in coordination with the New England States, which resulted in common sense, cost-effective ground water cleanups and facilitated the beneficial reuse of contaminated parcels of land.

Additionally, Region 1 continues to work with Bridgeport, Connecticut to implement its Brownfields redevelopment pilot. Bridgeport has hosted a job training summit and a national conference of EPA pilot cities and hopes to return four to six brownfields to productive use.

GOALS

Activities planned as part of the Region 1 Brownfields Beneficial Reuse Initiative to promote faster cleanups and quicker, more equitable settlements include:

- Awarding \$1,000,000 in Brownfields pilot grants to Region 1 areas (combined National and Regional funds) and conducting oversight of all those pilots in Region 1. This effort includes participating in the National Brownfields pilot application review process, securing funds for Regional Brownfields pilots, and selecting and awarding Regional Brownfields pilot grants.
- Initiating the reuse of at least five sites through the Region 1 reuse team. This effort includes developing a framework for managing each

category of site (i.e., NPL, RCRA, removal, etc.), identifying the universe of sites in Region 1, prioritizing the sites in a tracking system, and developing an action plan for each site.

- Conducting outreach activities that solicit interest, gather and disseminate information, solve problems, and create infrastructure. Target groups include professionals from the commercial sector (including lawyers, developers, lenders, and insurers), municipalities, community groups, States, other Federal agencies, Congress, and academia.
- Tracking all reuse made possible by EPA in economic terms (e.g., jobs and tax revenue) and communicating these successes through public fact sheets, press releases, and annual reports.
- Promoting voluntary cleanup programs in appropriate States.
- Finalizing and implementing the Ground Water Use and Value Guidance.

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